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Friday 5 August, 2011

Jeans for Genes is a major fundraising event for the [Children's Medical Research Institute](http://www.childrensmiracle.com.au). It's held every year on the first Friday of August. Each year more than two million Australians wear their favourite jeans and donate much needed funds to support vital genetic research to advance the prevention and treatment of disease, leading to healthier generations of children.

If you would like to make a donation please pop it into the Jeans for Genes Day Box on the Reception Desk!

Dear Families,

As I stood in the Open Air Chapel amidst the bushland just off the north end of Shelly Beach with the warmth of the sun wrapping around all who gathered on a beautiful winter's day, I felt privileged to be listening to the stories of a young man whose life has ended far too soon. Family, friends, and those like me whose path has crossed in some way or another with Josh Black, recently honoured his life and who he was in a most beautiful service with respectful sensitive reflections, music and song. I have known of Josh's family since my early years in my career as an Early Childhood Teacher in Ballina way back in the early 80's. I met Josh and his wife Elisabeth when they came to enrol Jett into our Rock-pools Program. His sister and her young son were already part of St Anne's and so the information was passed on.

Again at the end of last week, I gathered with a community of relations, friends, and "connected others" who farewelled a 96 year old man, Con Asumussen, a stalwart of the Surf Life Saving community in Ballina and beyond—honoured by State and National Representatives and an MBE for his service to the Life Saving movement for many many years. Again I felt privileged to listen to Con's story, who he was and what he had done.

Life is eternal, and love is immortal,
and death is only a horizon;
and a horizon is nothing save the limit of
our sight.

~Rossiter Worthington Raymond

Yours as we care for and educate children together,
Narelle Dewhurst.

Centre Director.

Lauren's Parental Leave Replacement

I'm sure you are all aware by now of the 'early' birth of Lauren's twins, Luke and Aiden. All are doing well in John Flynn Hospital Newcastle. Lauren's replacement will be Jane Saxton Mondays to Thursdays and Dorothy Poulos will continue with us on Fridays.

Jane has written a letter of introduction:

Hi, I'm Jane. I'm the new pre-school teacher in the Sea Birds room at St. Anne's LDDC. I will be working four days a week, Monday to Thursday. I obtained my Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies from The University of Melbourne 10 years ago. Since then, I have worked in both the pre-school and long day care setting. I have also finished the other half of the degree I started, which is a science degree, with a major in environmental science. I have been trying to write a thesis on environmental education for about four years. It will get finished, it's just a matter of when! About six years ago I moved from Victoria to live in this area, which I absolutely love. I am a mummy of one daughter, and I also have a little clown business, which I manage called Home Made Parties. I also blog about our journey, which you are welcome to read <http://louandjane.blogspot.com/>. So life is busy, but good. If I had more free time I would spend it scuba diving, going to the gym or crafting. I am thrilled to be the pre-school teacher at St. Anne's. It's a huge honour and I'm so excited to start. It is a privilege to work with young children and also a great responsibility. I believe that children learn through imaginative play and that imagination is the most important gift we can instil in our children.

I look forward to meeting you and your children over the coming weeks. If you need to discuss any particular matters regarding your child or their development, I encourage you to make an appointment with me. Otherwise, I will see you all soon.

**Jeans for Genes Day—Friday 5 August!!
Donations welcome in the box on Reception Desk.**

Is your child going to be absent?

If your child is going to be absent for any of their usual enrolled days we ask that you let Sharni know so she can alert the teachers in your child's room of their absence.

As the teacher's plan their daily and weekly programs they plan them with the children in their class in mind in relation to not only group activities, but also individualised activities.

Knowing of a child's absence, especially if going to be absent for more than just 1 or 2 days, is really helpful to them in relation to this program planning.

MID-YEAR DEVELOPMENTAL SUMMARIES

Over the last month, your child's educators have been working on the writing of developmental summaries for each child who has been enrolled with us since the beginning of the year (if your child joined St Anne's after March you will receive a summary a little later this year).

You will shortly receive this summary. You will receive 2 copies, one for you to keep and the other for you to write a comment on then return it to the Centre for our Developmental Records (this is a Licensing Regulation).

We trust you will find the summaries informative and we invite you to discuss them with your child's teacher if you would like to, at a time convenient to you both.

COMMUNITY NEWS

One of our St Anne's parents, Daria Cebedzija, would like to share this information with you:

Dear Families,

Aussies for Orphans, a local charity, has taken on another wonderful project this year and it is raising funds for the children in Cambodia. Together with New Hope Cambodia they will be having a big fundraiser on August 13th 2011 at RSL and guess what? you are all invited J.

I would like to tell you about this very important project a bit more so please read on.

Mondul 3, Siem Reap is one of the poorest slum areas in Cambodia. A broken community of army families, karaoke/sex workers and displaced men, women and children. To add to this problem many girls from outer rural areas are requested by their families to leave their homes and move to the town of Siem Reap in the hope of finding a job with adequate income to support themselves and send money home to their family. The majorities of these girls are illiterate and have no vocational skills. Many quickly fall victim to the sex trade, realizing this is their only means of survival. Up to 300 girls live in this small village as entertainers or prostitutes. They earn approximately US\$40 per month for their services. Many of the girls are then left with babies and young children of their own to raise and have no choice but to raise them in this same environment. These girls can have no future vision..... and approximately half will die of disease at a very premature age.

At Aussies for Orphans we believe in the old saying "Give someone a fish and they will eat for a day, teach them how to fish and they'll eat forever".

Our goal with this project would be to raise money and give these young lives an education which will help in find-

ing better jobs and at the same time to restore hope, dignity and promise to these once proud and prosperous

AFO needs your help. You can help by

-coming to the fundraiser held at RSL on 13/08/2011. The cost of entry is \$85.00 per person (includes 3 course meal and a wonderful entertainment- comedian Sean Choolburra, famous impersonator Ricky Organ, dance group, games, plenty of fun, quality prizes and surprise artists or,

- by donating something valuable (art, gift vouchers, memberships, etc) that can be auctioned (Please note that all business will get a full exposure and advertising), or

-making a one off donation or

-just simply by joining the 'coffee for life' program at \$12 per month.

'Coffee for life' program is the cost of one cup of coffee a week which will help with ongoing funding of these wonderful projects and many more.

Thank you all for taking time to reading this and for making a difference. For those who are interested please phone Sue Lewis on **1300 887 403** or by simply visiting AFO's website.

www.aussiesfororphans.org

LJ Hooker National Draw My House Competition

Entries/drawing paper, available in the Centre's foyer.

Open to children from 3 yrs of age to 13 yrs.

Just draw your house in colour, black and white, crayons, textas or even paint and take it to the LJ Hooker office in Ballina or Lennox Head.

Please read the following information. It is important that you understand if a child presents with an elevated temperature that we **MUST** let you know. If the temperature is over 37.5°C we **WILL** ring you to come and get your child so they can be in your care. Our concern is always for your child's health and well-being and elevated temperatures tell us something is not quite right in relation to their health.

PROCEDURE FOR CHILDREN WITH ELEVATED TEMPERATURE

- If concerned about a child's temperature, staff should take the temperature recording all details (date, time, temperature, follow up) in the room's Accident/Injury/Illness Report Book.
- If the child's temperature is elevated (over 37°C) the Director (or acting Director) should be informed and family should be contacted to let them know. You may suggest that you will take the temperature again in 10-15 mins to ascertain if rising.
- A Fever is when the body's temperature is higher than normal - 37.5°C or above when taken by thermometer under the arm. As we are using a digital ear thermometer which may not be as accurate as taking a reading from the mouth or under the armpit, we will contact families when a child's temperature is over 37°C.
- If a child's temperature is evidenced above 37.5°C the child's family will be contacted to come and take the child home. The Director must be advised of this action by Staff.
- A fever is a sign of infection in the body and may occasionally bring about febrile convulsions in children under 5 years of age.
- Children with a fever often feel uncomfortable and unwell and need to be cared for by their family at home. This will also minimise cross infection with other children and staff.
- Children with a fever may not be medicated by their parent and left at the Centre. They need to be in their home environment minimising cross infection with those at the Centre. We are not able to keep children in isolation away from others.

What do we do, as Early Childhood Educators, all day? What is “planning and programming”?

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) Curriculum for Early Childhood Services underpins all that we do at St Anne's Long Day Care Centre.

The EYLF calls for us to first establish secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships with the children in our care and partnerships with their families and their communities.

The EYLF expects that quality early childhood teaching includes the decisions we make about the learning opportunities that we will provide for each child in the context of the caring relationship we have with them.

....and so.....

1. We spend quite sometime when children first start with us, getting to know them and building a relationships with them. We believe this then helps the children feel secure here with us in the absence of their family.

We can then start focusing on developing learning opportunities for them.

2. We observe children doing the things that they normally do in the normal routine of the day so we can identify what children already know—that is, we identify their strengths.

We DO NOT test children, nor do we require them to undertake tasks to demonstrate to us how they perform.

Observation of children at play is how we gather our information about children's strengths.

The EYLF focuses on and reminds us that play is the context for children's learning where children demonstrate (and practise) agency.

Play is the tool we use in our curriculum—both planned and spontaneous.

3. We record our observations using an 'anecdotal style' or a 'learning story' or 'documentation' (at times we may use other styles).

These 'recorded observations' are collected in each child's 'Portfolio' supplemented with photos, notes, comments, ideas and thoughts about the implication of what we have seen the child do in relation to on-going planning for that child.

4. The educators (all the St Anne's staff working with the children) will think about and talk in their teams about the interactions/activities/routines that they can use to **plan** the learning opportunities that they identify as necessary for each child. **Recorded PLANS** becomes the group's **program**.

- The children's interests are particularly important because the educators will use them to create opportunities that will attract the child's attention so that the child is likely to engage.

- The aim in early childhood education, is for the child to choose to participate (because it is interesting) and in the process of participating and having fun, and through the way the educators will interact with the child during participation, the learning occurs!

- PLAY is the key tool used to capture and use children's existing interests and strengths to build new strengths, knowledge and skills. In doing this the educators' teaching is intentional, deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful!